

Claims

31. Apparatus for transporting and filling freight containers, each of the containers having an opening therein, the apparatus comprising:
- a chassis supported by ground engaging transport elements;
 - a hopper having an open upper end and a lower outlet;
 - a conveyor having proximal and distal ends, the conveyor disposed beneath the hopper outlet for receiving material from the hopper, the conveyor moving material away from the hopper outlet to the distal end; and
 - the chassis including a hitch to couple the chassis to a container chassis supporting a removable freight container having an opening so as to receive material that is to be loaded by the conveyor into the container.
32. The apparatus as defined by claim 31 wherein the hitch is a fifth wheel hitch.
33. The apparatus as defined by claim 31 wherein the conveyor is operable at a speed to throw the material through the opening and into the interior of the container, the material following an arcuate path as a function of the conveyor angle and speed so as to reach the opposite end of the container whereby the container can be substantially filled.
34. The apparatus as defined by claim 33 wherein the conveyor has a belt operating at a speed between 1700 and 2300 feet per minute.
35. The apparatus as defined by claim 33 wherein the conveyor is inclined at about a 15 degree angle.
36. The apparatus as defined by claim 35 wherein the conveyor has a belt operating at a speed of about 2200 feet per minute.